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20 Grosvenor Square.

(23)

A8/mdj

17 September 1947.

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, L.S.I.C.

(Attention: TICOM).

Subject: Interrogation of Selchow.

1. The attached TICOM report is transmitted herewith for your information. If you consider further interrogation of SELCHOW, I will so inform the authorities at ASA Europe.

William G Bartlett

WILLIAM G. BARTLETT,
Lt. Col., GSC., U.S.Army,
Senior U.S. Liaison Officer.

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HW 40/181

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APO 757

ASA-13/MCL/ab

3 September 1947

SUBJECT: Interrogation of Selchow

TO: IDWD Detachment
c/o Military Attache
London, England
Naval Fleet Post Office No. 100
(to be passed to TICOM)

1. Pursuant to request of Army Security Agency, Washington for information concerning Selchow of the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the inclosed report is forwarded as a preliminary interrogation report of Selchow conducted by a representative of Army Security Agency, Europe at Frankfurt am Main, 2 September 1947.

2. It is requested that this Headquarters be advised whether further interrogation of Selchow is desired by TICOM, and if so, that specific questions be forwarded to this Headquarters for use in the interrogation.

3. A copy of the inclosed report has been forwarded to Army Security Agency, Washington and that Agency has also been requested to advise whether further interrogation is desirable.

Incl
Report of Interrogation

ROBERT T. WALKER
Lt. Colonel, Signal Corps
Chief

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TICOM/I-208

INTERROGATION REPORT ON KURT SELCHOW, FORMER HEAD OF THE PERS ZS DEPARTMENT OF THE GERMAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Attached is a report on the interrogation of Gesandter Ministerdirigent Kurt SELCHOW, former head of "Pers ZS", the crypto-bureau of the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, carried out at Frankfurt-am-Main on 2nd September, 1947, by Captain Mary C. LANE of A.S.A. Europe.

2. The report is of general historical interest, and SELCHOW claims to have no technical knowledge. For detailed interrogation report on the work of his department, including the personnel mentioned by him on page 10, see Ticom/I-22.

TICOM
27th October, 1947.

No. of Sheets: 3

Copy No: 11.

Distribution :-

L.S.I.C.

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25. Chief, A.S.A. Europe.)

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INTERROGATION REPORT ON KURT SELCHOW, FORMER HEAD OF THE PLRS ZS DEPARTMENT OF THE GERMAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Personal Data:

a. Surname: SELCHOW.

b. Christian Names: Kurt Richard.

c. Aliases: None.

d. Date and Place of Birth: 28 May 1886. Oppeln, Upper Silesia, Germany.

e. Nationality claimed: German.

f. Occupation: Former head, with rank of Gesandter Minister-dirigent, of Cryptobureau, German Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

g. Religion: Evangelical.

h. Description:

Height: Approximately 6'2".

Weight: Approximately 160 pounds.

Build: Thin, tall.

Face: Square, grey-blue eyes, glasses.

Hair: Slightly grey and thinning.

i. Last Permanent Address: Wedel bei Hamburg, Schulauerstrasse 9.

j. Father: Hugo SELCHOW, Postdirektor at Oppeln (deceased).

k. Mother: -------

l. Brothers: -------

m. Sisters: -------

n. Wife: Erna SELCHOW (geboren Schultz).

o. Children: One daughter, Gitta.

p. Identity documents: Certificate of identity from Office of Chief of Counsel, Nuernberg.
Identification card.

Autobiographical Notes: SELCHOW, Kurt Richard was born 28 May, 1886, in Oppeln, Upper Silesia, Germany, the son of the Postdirektor of Oppeln, Hugo SELCHOW. He was educated in the schools of Oppeln until 1906 when he became a soldier. Assigned at first to the Infantry, he was transferred in 1912 to the Signal Corps (Nachrichten Telegrafen Bataillon) in Frankfurt-an-Oder. He served with the German Army of World War I as a signal officer with the troops. SELCHOW stated that even in the midst of World War I he had pointed out to the Chief Signal Officer that much of the work being done in the German Army Signal Corps belonged properly to the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs because of its diplomatic nature. The Chief

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Signal Officer did not agree with this statement and during the war much of the work done by the Army was diplomatic. Directly after World War I, however, SELCHOW entered the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs where he organised the crypto-bureau. He brought with him into the crypto-bureau several soldiers whom he had known during the war, viz: SCHAUFFLER, PASCHKE, ZASTROW, BRANDES, HOFFMANN and KUNZE. He remained head of the crypto-bureau until the defeat of Germany in May, 1945. After the defeat of Germany, SELCHOW remained for two years in the French Zone of Germany at Weiler/Vorarlberg, Swabia.

In mid-April, 1947, SELCHOW moved to Wedel bei Hamburg, British Zone of Germany, where he now lives with his wife and daughter in the house of a relative. He is employed in a merchant firm of a relative in Wedel, and his daughter is employed in a factory owned by a relative in Wedel, His wife is ill. SELCHOW expressed the desire to move with his wife and daughter to the American Zone of Germany, preferably to Marburg where he stated, SCHAUFFLER, PASCHKE and KUNZE now live. He has, however, no means of obtaining the necessary permission of Military Government to come into the American Zone and procure a residence.

Contact with Foreign Governments since End of War: SELCHOW stated that although he lived for two years in the French Zone of Germany after the end of the war he had not spoken with any French authorities concerning his previous occupation. He stated that when the French had discovered on his identification papers that he had been the head of the Crypto-bureau of the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs they stated that all the crypto-systems had changed and hence they were not interested in questioning him. Once, however, he had learned that for some time it had been thought by the French that his name was a cover-name for a system (the Selchowsysteme). SELCHOW stated that he had never been questioned by the British during his residence in Wedel concerning his previous occupation.

Contact with Former Colleagues: SELCHOW stated that he was in frequent communication by letter with other former members of the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, particularly those who had been his colleagues during the entire period of his service with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. As stated above, PASCHKE, SCHAUFFLER and KUNZE were said to be living in Marburg; HOFFMANN, Ernst, Former head of the Funkbuero and Fernschreibstelle of the crypto-bureau was now living in Minden/Westfalien. Dr. HAUTHAL was living at Alten Hohenau/Post Griesstaett/Inn. He stated that Dr. ROY, who had been head of the Verwaltungsbuero of the crypto-bureau had been for some time after the war in a prison camp at Halle/Saale, but was now a prisoner in Russia and had not been heard from for some time.

Notes on History of Crypto-bureau of Ministry of Foreign Affairs: SELCHOW stated that he was familiar with the history of the crypto-bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1919 to 1945. Such a bureau had existed within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs during World War I, but chiefly as an enciphering and encoding group. In 1919, when he became leader of this group, he introduced the system of dividing work upon foreign codes and ciphers into sections for the various countries and selected as leaders of these sections those men such as PASCHKE, KUNZE and SCHAUFFLER who had been known to him during the War. The crypto-bureau had been before 1919 and continued to be throughout World War II subordinated to the Personalabteilung of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The outline of the chain of command within the Ministry and the organisation of the crypto-bureau as he described it is as follows :-

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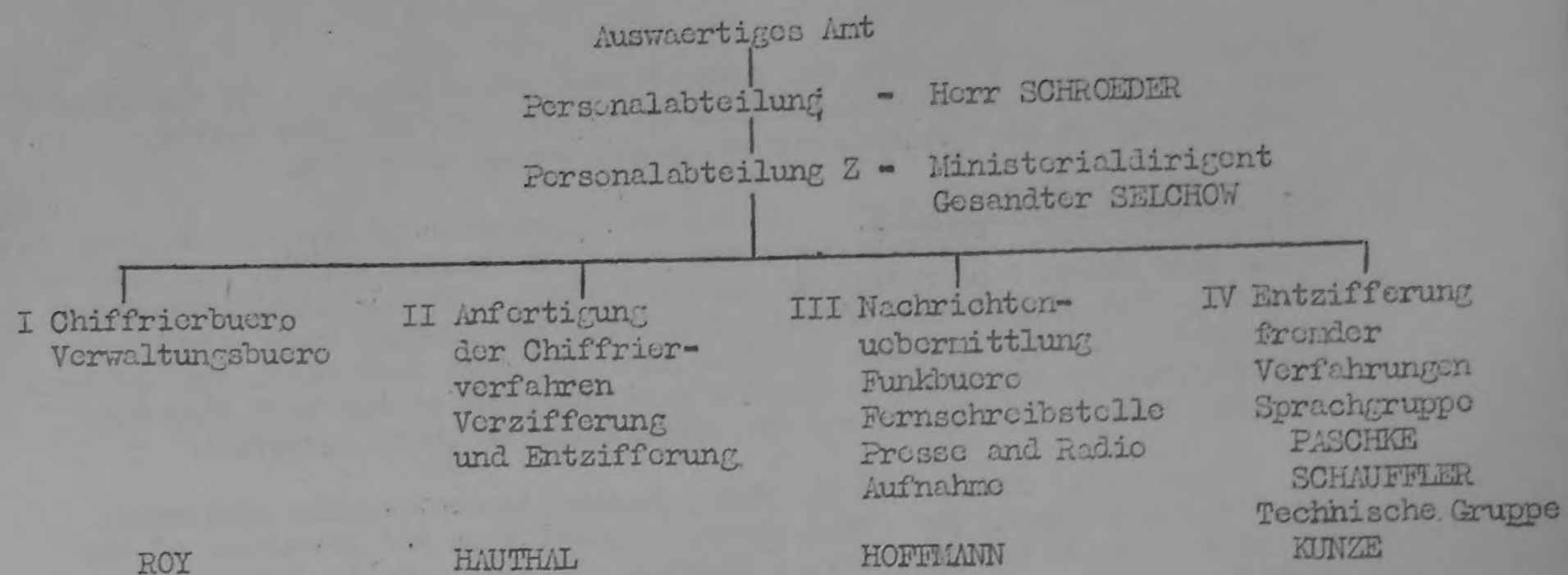

SELCHOW stated that during the latter years of World War II the crypto-bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had expanded until it comprised between 400 and 500 persons, including both men and women. However, it had up to that time remained relatively small and at the beginning, the group had consisted of only fourteen or fifteen persons.

At the end of the war the crypto-bureau had been forced by bombing to leave Berlin-Dahlem and to move successively southward. This accounted for the presence of SELCHOW near Weiler at the end of the war and for his continued residence in the French Occupied Zone of Germany.

Relation of SELCHOW to OKW/Chi and to the Forschungsamt: SELCHOW was particularly anxious to clear his record of any voluntary relation with the National Socialist Party. He stated that from the very beginning of his diplomatic career he had been interested in a closer co-operation of the various countries of Europe with one another, on something of the same plan now advocated by CHURCHILL. He had not been a militarist, nor had he interested himself in military systems, making it a strict policy within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that only systems of a diplomatic nature should be dealt with. Until 1933 the crypto-bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had had the entire field of diplomatic ciphers to itself. The cryptographic systems of the Armed Forces of other countries were handled by the Wehrmacht. With the advent of HITLER, however, the Luftfahrtministerium under GOERING encroached upon the field of the cryptobureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. SELCHOW stated that he himself at this time wished to resign since he had no sympathy whatsoever with the National Socialist movement. He was persuaded to remain, however, by von BULOW who was until 1938 Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Von BULOW, who was also a firm opponent of National Socialism, was extremely anxious that the crypto-bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs remain untarnished by National Socialism and that it be staffed by opponents to the new movement. SELCHOW therefore remained with the crypto-bureau but outside the National Socialist Party until von BULOW's death in 1938. When RIBBENTROP became head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs a great deal of power was taken from SELCHOW, since von RIBBENTROP did not trust him. His supervisory capacity was restricted to those sectionswhich dealt with the passing of messages to and from missions and to the technicalities of the deciphering of the systems of foreign countries. He was forced to join the Party in 1941 but took no active part in its policy. During the war years he had no exact knowledge of the messages passed and took no part in any matters pertaining to diplomacy.

SELCHOW stated that when he and his colleagues in the crypto-bureau were ordered to collaborate with the personnel of the Forschungsamt, they often gave false information concerning systems or solution of systems in order to

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hinder as much as possible the work of that organisation. On the other hand, as the war progressed collaboration with OKW/Chi grew better, particularly on new problems on which all worked in common.

Impression of Interrogator: It was the impression of the interrogator that SELCHOW was extremely co-operative. He talked swiftly and with an eager enthusiasm concerning his past activity. He denied all technical knowledge but stated that KUNZE, SCHAUFFLER and PASCHKE could give technical details. He was familiar with the fact that these men had been interrogated by the British and the Americans and stated that they had already given full reports to the authorities in those countries.

There is no doubt that SELCHOW possesses much valuable historical knowledge concerning the development, organisation and personnel of the crypto-bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He is evidently in close contact with former members of the crypto-bureau and offered to come to Marburg where PASCHKE, SCHAUFFLER and KUNZE now are and collaborate with them on a complete history of the development, organisation and technical successes of the bureau. He was quite certain that he could also bring HOFFMANN and HAUTHAL into this work, should the United States government wish it. The interrogator stated that this proposal would be referred to the United States government and that he would be informed at Wodel, should further interrogation be required. SELCHOW stated that should he be forced by circumstances to move from his present residence at Schulauerstrasse 9, PASCHKE of Marburg would know where he could be reached.

Auswärtiges Amt